Old age pension

†*326. SHRI ISAM SINGH: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old persons above the age of 65 years in India who are living below poverty line;

(b) whether Government are providing old age pension to ail these old people; and

(c) if not, the action Government propose to take to ensure that pension is provided to all these people?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The Ministry of Rural Development does not maintain record of the number of old persons above the age of 65 years in India who are living below poverty line.

(b) and (c) Ministry of Rural Devebpment now has no scheme for providing old age pension; State Government/UT Administrations provide old age pension. However, the Ministry of Finance releases funds as Additional Central Assistance (ACA) in accordance with the allocations made by the Planning Commission to State/UTs to augment their efforts in this regard.

Manufacturing AJTs by HAL

*327. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. will manufacture Advanced Jet Trainers in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) when will they be able to meet the full demand of Indian Air Force in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited would be manufacturing Advanced Jet Trainers under licence from BAE Systems (Operations) Limited for delivery during 2008-2010.

(c) It is expected that the aircrafts will be delivered by 2010 to meet the requirements of Indian Air Force.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.